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16 July 1962

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Operational Control of Satellite Programs

25X1 1. The undersigned attended a meeting with General Greer in Los Angeles on 2 July. Prior to direct discussions with General Greer, the general problem was outlined with Colonel Ruebel, Colonel Worthman and [redacted] who are members of General Greer's staff, and Major Farnum and Major J. Sides from Dr. Charyk's office. The NRO requirement for a control room or flight-following center was discussed in terms of types of information that would be monitored and/or displayed in the Washington center. Types of information and/or displays included targets and priorities, weather data, intelligence information, actual ephemeris and vehicle characteristics, what coverage has been obtained to date, film consumption, and restraints such as range safety limitations, etc. After briefly discussing each one of the above, it was pointed out that once a vehicle was in orbit that the only reason command decisions are required is because of film limitations. The ARGON program, which is not film limited, does not require a control room or the decision-making type monitoring that the CORONA or LANYARD program have. Projecting the film-limitation aspect to future programs, it appears that the only program that will be involved for the next several months with a decision-making requirement will be the CORONA program. SAMOS will be of limited duration - one or two days - therefore not film limited.

2. The above points were then covered with General Greer, who agreed; however, he felt that if Dr. Charyk desires a control room then there would be no decision required but to take the necessary action to implement this request. General Greer stated, however, that technical decisions should remain on the West Coast with the program manager. This is the present format with the programs. ILLEGIB

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3. In summing up the various comments of General Greer and the other members of his staff, it was agreed that the easiest way to implement Dr. Charyk's desires would be to initially use the CIA CORONA staff in Washington as an instrument for implementing Dr. Charyk's wishes and gradually expand the scope and operating procedures to encompass all NRP satellite programs.

4. How this was to be effected would be left to the people in Washington. One point briefly mentioned by General Greer at [redacted] was the input or use of a computer to assist in making on-orbit decisions. General Greer agreed that if the control center was in Washington that a computer was not a requirement since computer information could be obtained through a communications circuit and fed into the Washington center.

5. In view of this, we are recommending the following actions be taken:

a. That a representative from Dr. Charyk's staff, either from his Washington office or General Greer's office, be temporarily assigned to CIA Operations Staff for a period of indoctrination in the present CORONA procedures;

b. That at such time as space and the appropriate facilities are available in the Pentagon that the operations gradually be transitioned to that location;

c. That a decision-making process would be represented by joint representation by CIA and the DOD representing the DNRO; and

d. That a flight-following type capability be retained in the CIA control room to ensure that the DCI and DD/R are fully aware of their operational status and coverage in a timely manner.

6. NEW SUBJECT. Colonel Worthman briefly outlined his position at the present time where he is working with General Estes and at the same time working with our program in handling the covert CORONA/ARGON aspects with Air Force personnel. He indicated that General Estes was requiring more time of the CORONA/ARGON staff and that he was getting away from doing the thing he liked most, i. e., working with the Agency or General Greer-type projects. As a result

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of this discussion, I feel that it would be to our advantage to recommend to Dr. Charyk, who appears to be the only person who could direct this action, that Worthman and his staff [redacted] [redacted] be assigned to General Greer's staff.

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